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In his annual report information relative to the condition of State and private banks, but he can only obtain such information from State officials or through the operation of State laws. His official jurisdiction is limited to national banks. To obtain the other information he suggests that the legislature pass a law requiring State and private banks to report at the same time and in the same manner as national banks. As the information would be beneficial to the public his suggestion will probably be acted upon.

THE CITY SCHOOL QUESTION.

The question of our city school government and finances is one of the most important relating to the affairs of Indianapolis that will come before the Legislature. The case is put in this way because it seems inevitable that the subject will come before the Legislature either in a proposition to change the mode of school government or in one for financial relief, or possibly both. The time has come when something must be done, not only for present financial relief, but looking to the future maintenance of the school standard and the city's credit. Whether or not the change in the mode of school government shall be made or not, steps must be taken to provide for wiping out the present indebtedness, preventing the accumulation of more and meeting the current expenses of the schools in the near future, including new buildings and a material extension of school accommodations. The Journal is of opinion that the present board and its predecessors have acted unwisely in pursuing a policy of school expansion at the cost of a constantly increasing debt, but it recognizes the fact that they were encompassed by difficulties not of their own making. The present debt is really a heritage and accumulation of more than twenty years, during all of which period the growth of the schools has outrun the growth of revenue. No doubt the expansion has been too great on some experimental and expensive lines, but as the net result has been to place the Indianapolis schools at the head of all the policy cannot be said to have entirely failed. Perhaps the people would have been better contented with smaller results and less debt, but considering the restricted revenue, it is not certain that the same results could have been accomplished without creating debt. Nor is it certain that any other form of government or mode of selecting the School Board would have yielded better results. The whole question at present resolves itself into one of finance. The schools are here and must be maintained. The debt is created and must be either paid at maturity or funded. The annual interest account, which has increased from \$10,000 in 1866 to \$23,000 in 1896, must be reduced and the sinking fund for its interest in the Pacific railroads, it will be well rid of a troublesome matter.

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small to justify the cost of maintaining an extra circuit. The Journal is not in a position to say whether the local protests against these proposed new circuits are well founded or not, but it does know that public sentiment and the temper of the times are opposed to any increase in the cost of any department of government that is not absolutely necessary. The situation in Jay county seems to be one that ought to make its taxpayers oppose any unnecessary increase of expenses. The correspondent already quoted says:

In the case of Jay county the taxes are already too high. The people are poor. The commissioners have just completed a new county asylum at a cost of \$23,451; a new jail is absolutely essential, and must soon be built, and which will cost \$40,000; \$80,000; an addition to the courthouse must be built, which will cost \$100,000; and the present indebtedness of the county is \$100,000. These are sufficient reasons for opposing a new judicial circuit unless there are stronger public reasons in favor of it. There is always a great deal of talk in favor of economy before elections. The people want to see it practiced after elections.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

The Library of Congress, which will soon occupy the magnificent new building provided for it, has grown to enormous dimensions. A statement sent to Congress a few days ago by Librarian Spofford says that the new building must accommodate at once 740,000 volumes, 250,000 pamphlets, about 300,000 unbound periodicals, the Smithsonian scientific library of 100,000 volumes, the Towne library of 30,000 volumes and many pamphlets and periodicals, 200,000 copyrighted medical compositions, an extensive collection of works of graphic art, number not less than 1,000,000 distinct works, a vast collection of maps of every description, original of charts, illustrating all departments of scientific instruction and requiring much space, and a collection of manuscripts acquired with the historical library of Peter Force and from other sources. This represents the present contents of the library, which is constantly growing by the purchase of new works or collections of books, by donations and bequests, and by the operation of the copyright law, which requires a copy of every book, pamphlet, or map copyrighted in the United States to be deposited in the library. The original library was commenced in 1800, but was destroyed with the Capitol in 1814, during the war with England. Its next beginning was by the purchase by Congress of ex-President Thomas Jefferson's library, embracing about 7,000 volumes. This was done partly as a means of relieving Jefferson from financial straits. In 1851 the library contained 55,000 volumes, but by a fire in that year lost all but 20,000 volumes. In 1852 Congress appropriated \$55,000 for the purchase of books. For many years past there has been an annual appropriation of about \$11,000 for the purchase of new works and occasional appropriations for special purposes. The library has grown to be the greatest in the world, and the new library building will far surpass any other in beauty, magnificence and artistic adornment. The library is open to everybody for the purposes of reading and consultation, but only members of Congress and a limited number of government officials can take away books. At present, in addition to the librarian there are employed forty-two assistants and clerks, and in the new quarters the number will be more than doubled.

NO CAUSE FOR HASTE.

Senator Hoar was right in criticizing the impulsive and unreflecting sentiment which demands the unhesitating and immediate ratification of the arbitration treaty. There is no occasion for haste. A better Senate than the present will be in Washington after March 4. When the first statements were made regarding the provisions of the treaty there was a general impulse to ratify it because the people of this country desire to pursue a policy which will insure the security and confidence of assured peace. As soon, however, as the treaty was published several conservative lawyers and familiar with the subject, which the treaty relates expressed doubts as to the wisdom of some of its provisions. General Tracy, for instance, a very conservative man and able lawyer, regards the treaty as being one-sided. Ex-Senator Edmunds, who is one of the best authorities in this country, holds that the Monroe doctrine is involved in the article which provides for an arbitration tribunal, of which the King of Sweden shall be the umpire. On the other hand the State Department holds that any question affecting the Monroe doctrine must be determined under another article of the treaty. Here at the outset is a difference of opinion among the wisest men in the country affecting a matter of the greatest moment to the United States.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

The estate of the late Shah of Persia is valued at \$200,000,000, of which two-fifths is in cash and bullion. It is rumored that the Shah's estate will be used to advance the civilization of Persia. Sandow is an adept in spiritualism in his younger days and much interested in all the mysteries of the occult. In later years he has done many such pursuits for more material things, but now he is said to be about to devote his life to the study of the occult. General Gourko, the noted Russian soldier, formerly governor general of Warsaw, is seriously ill. About two years ago he suffered from a stroke of apoplexy, which confined him to his bed for some time. He is sixty-nine years old and holds the rank of field marshal.

THE THIN LADY.

"She looks like a picture."

"Reminds me of a frame."

SQUELCH HIM.

Now let us hang the arrogant loo!

Without recourse to law.